

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00813 080335Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 ARA-10 EA-10

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 HA-05 /072 W

-----011739 080341Z /75

O 080220Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9920

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00813

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: DATE OF WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN
FORCES

REF: (A) STATE 054713, (B) CAPE TOWN 0395

1. DURING CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION MARCH 7 OF QUESTION
OF DATE OF WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES, WE MADE
KNOWN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW (REF A) THAT NO CHANGE SHOULD
BE MADE ON THIS POINT IN THE PROPOSAL AND DEPARTMENT'S
SUGGESTION THAT TALKING POINTS COULD BE PREPARED BY THE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00813 080335Z

FIVE WHICH WOULD REASSURE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT IN THE
CONTEXT OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT
THERE COULD BE NO LEGITIMATE OBJECTION TO CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY INVITING SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES TO REMAIN. WE
FURTHER NOTED DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT FIVE COULD ASSURE
SAG THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION
CONDEMNING SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT PROVIDED THAT TRANSITION

IN NAMIBIA MET REQUIREMENTS OF SC RES 385. IN RESPONSE, CANADIANS QUESTIONED WHETHER THE TERM "WOULD NOT SUPPORT" MEANT THAT WE WOULD VETO. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THAT POINT BUT THAT WE DOUBTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD WISH TO MAKE ANY SUCH COMMITMENT REGARDING A VETO. CANADA AND BRITAIN BOTH HELD THAT UNLESS THE FIVE WERE WILLING TO TELL THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THEY WOULD VOTE "NO" IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN SUCH A SITUATION, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO MENTION POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION.

2. WITH THE OTHERS EXPRESSING SKEPTICISM THAT ORAL ASSURANCES WOULD SATISFY SAG, WE BROUGHT UP DEPARTMENT'S FALLBACK POSITION: THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER CAPE TOWN'S SUGGESTED LANGUAGE (REF B) PROVIDED THAT IT WERE FIRST PRESENTED INFORMALLY TO NYERERE FOR COMMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, GERMANS PROVIDED GROUP WITH EXCERPT OF REPORT (DATAFAXED TO IO/UNP ATT: BARRY) OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S FEBRUARY 27 CONVERSATION WITH NYERERE. ACCORDING TO REPORT, WHEN GENSCHER RAISED PROBLEM OF DATE OF WITHDRAWAL, NYERERE REPLIED THAT THE DECISIVE ISSUE IS TO ESTABLISH THE DECOLONIZATION OF NAMIBIA AS A BINDING PRINCIPLE. IF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTION TO WITHDRAW (I.E. TO ANNOUNCE A FINAL DATE OF MILITARY WITHDRAWAL) REMAINED VAGUE, TANZANIA WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SWAPO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00813 080335Z

SAY "NO" TO ANY SUCH HAZARDOUS PROPOSAL.

3. GROUP AGREED THAT FRG REPORT DECREASES LIKELIHOOD OF NYERERE'S ENDORSEMENT OF ANY CHANGE IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL ON THIS POINT. GROUP MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH CAPITALS. BRITISH SUGGESTED THAT DAVID OWEN MIGHT RAISE THE ISSUE IN CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY VANCE MARCH 8.

4. COMMENT. U.S. IS JOINED BY GERMANY IN BELIEVING THAT NO CHANGE SHOULD BE MADE IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL ON THIS POINT. A CHANGE IN THE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL WILL NOT SECURE SOUTH AFRICAN ENDORSEMENT OF OUR PROPOSAL AND WILL VERY LIKELY RESULT IN AFRICAN REJECTION. WE CONTINUE TO SHY AWAY FROM PRIVATE ORAL ASSURANCES TO ONE PARTY AND ARE ADDITIONALLY SKEPTICAL OF THE AMOUNT OF SATISFACTION SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD RECEIVE FROM SUCH ASSURANCES. WE BELIEVE THAT APPROACH CAN BE MADE TO NYERERE WITHOUT HARM AND, DESPITE FRG REPORT, BELIEVE THAT STRONG CASE CAN BE MADE WITH NYERERE TO THE EFFECT THAT A FAIRLY-ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO MAKE A DECISION ON

THIS MATTER OF SECURITY. WE BELIEVE THAT APPROACH TO
NYERERE IS, AS DEPARTMENT STATED, AT BEST A FALLBACK
POSITION, BUT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO TRY SUCH AN
APPROACH TO SATISFY BRITISH. END COMMENT. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, INTERIM GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0850
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780390/aaaacymh.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37e50fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 54713, 78 CAPE TOWN 395
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3397288
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: DATE OF WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37e50fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014